SIRIUS Number 21 $2.50 US TERI SUE

Wandering Star

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TERI SUE WOOD CREATOR, WRITER, AND ARTIST • PRESTON A. SWEET PROOF-READER

Well, I did it. As of 11:45 p.m., May fifth, 1997, I finished the last page of WANDERING STAR Book Twenty-one. It's done. It's over. And... here it is. I hope you like it.

It was a bit trickier than I had thought it would be. The writing part was okay, but as I got closer to penciling those last five pages, I became completely overwhelmed with the realization that I was finishing a project I began over four years ago, and which had seen me through some of the most drastic changes in my entire life. It ended up that the only way I could do those pages was to draw them in reverse order: 23, 22, 21, 20, 19... But now, it's finished, and tomorrow I'm taking a break, and the day after, I plan to dive head-first into DARKLIGHT. I'd take a longer break, but I'm anxious to start my "new life."

So, ya gonna miss me while I'm gone? Heh. Don't, 'cuz I'll be back very soon sporting three WANDERING STAR trades, with brand new covers, and other interesting stuff. There's even some talk about reprinting the original small press 1987-88 books with 'em, so you may get to see just how awful I used to be. Joy.

As for DARKLIGHT, the plan right now is to spend May researching and organizing the storyline, and then June and July creating it. I need two months ta draw it 'cuz DARKLIGHT's gonna be a 32-page bi-monthly. That monthly deadline was killing me, kids! Anyway, that should put the first issue out sometime between October and December. So, keep yer eyes peeled!

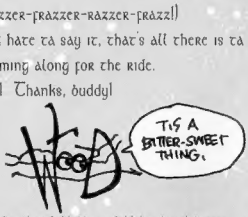
There's also going to be a collection out, sometime at the end of the year, with all of my old CARTOONIST strips—and an introduction by NEIL GAIMAN!!!! Yeaaaa! Is that cool or what??? I can die happy now. (But if anyone upstairs heard that, NOT SOON!!! In a hundred years, maybe, okay? I'm rather fond of the idea of dying of old, OLD age. Thanks.)

But wait... There's MORE!!! To celebrate the finishing of WANDERING STAR, and all the other cool stuff in my life presently, if ya see me at any conventions this year, I'm doing pencils for only five bucks. Now, I'm probably only gonna be at SAN DIEGO, so it's not that generous of a deal, but hey, I'm trying, folks. My only requirements is ya have'ta ask fer a WANDERING STAR, DARKLIGHT, or CARTOONIST character, and only ONE!!! Hopefully, this'll make things more fun for everybody. Now, ya all better just come ta SAN DIEGO and say, "hi!"

And guess what!!!!! My plants are growing!!! I've got corn, watermelon, cantaloupe, carrots and strawberries!!! My only problems are millions and millions of earwigs, slugs, snails, and moles. The little buggers are eating all of my plants!!! AAAAAH! I don't believe this! I finally get stuff ta grow, and STILL I am thwarted by the gods! This is really starting to get irritating. But, I refuse to be beaten. Today I put out lots and lots of bugkiller, so maybe, HOPEFULLY, this will help. And, yes, kiddies, you're gonna hav'ta tune in ta DARKLIGHT issue #1 ta see if it all works out in the end. Sigh. Well, on the up-side, I know so much more about gardening than I used to. (Razzer-frazzer-razzer-frazz!)

And, as much as I hate ta say it, that's all there is ta say. Thanks for coming along for the ride.

P.S. Hey, Preston! Thanks, buddy!



WANDERING STAR Vol. 1 #21. FIRST PRINTING. Published by SIRIUS Entertainment, Inc. Lawrence Salamone, President. Robb Horan, Publisher. Joseph Linsner, Art Director. Correspondence: P.O. Box 128, Stanhope NJ 07874. WANDERING STAR © 1997 Teri Sue Wood. SIRIUS & the DogStar logo are trademark and copyright SIRIUS Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarity to persons alive or dead is purely coincidental. Had a wonderful time. Glad you were here.

CLICK!
THAT WAS THE PLAN.

WHEN THE KEKAKOPOLOUS ENTERED FOBIEN SPACE,...
...MEKON, ABOARD THE WANDERING STAR, WOULD FLY OUT TO MEET HER.
AND LANDING ABOARD HER,
...WOULD THEN DELIVER THE ALLIANCE'S TERMS FOR SURRENDER TO NARZ,...
CLICK!
...AND THE TRILLIANS TO THE KEKAKOPOLOUS.
IT WOULD THEN BE UP TO MEKON TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
TO BUY THE TRILLIANS THE TIME THEY NEEDED TO LEARN HOW TO CONTROL THE KEKAKOPOLOUS.
AND WHEN THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED,
...THE TRILLIANS WOULD CONTACT FOBE,...
...ELLI WOULD START SENDING HER TUL'SAR BLOCKING SIGNAL,
AND THE FOBIEN FORCES,
ALONG WITH WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE RESISTANCE,...
...WOULD ATTACK.

BE SAFE, CASI-RONI.
YOU, TOO, MR. MAD SPACE RIDER.
I'LL BLAST A LOTTA BOKI FOR YA.
SWEE?!
Idiot.
Heh.
SWOOSH!
CASI~ isn't that...?
Yeah.
FATHER.
HELLO, MEKON.
I'VE BROUGHT YOU THE PAPERS YOU'RE TO TAKE TO COMMANDER NARZ.

THEY'RE QUITE AUTHENTIC.
COMMANDER NARZ SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THEM.
THANK YOU, SIR.

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHOM YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE WITH YOU?
YES, THERE ARE TWO OF THEM MAY I INTRODUCE THEM?
YES, PLEASE.

THIS IS MADISON. YOU MAY REMEMBER HIM FROM...
OH, YES.

YOU KNOW, MADISON,
TALGERT HAS STILL NOT FORGIVEN YOU.
I'M SORRY, SIR.
DON'T BE.
THAT SKILL MAY COME IN HANDY ON YOUR MISSION.

THIS...
...THIS IS CASANDRA ANDREWS.
Andrews...
YES, SIR~ MEET MY FRIEND.

I SEE.

I OWE YOU THE LIFE OF MY SON.

I BESTOW UPON YOU THE RIGHT OF T-SHAR.
FROM THIS POINT ON, YOU, CASANDRA ANDREWS, ARE MY DAUGHTER.

I...
...I THANK YOU, SIR.
NO. I THANK YOU.

MY SON.
I HAVE MISSED SO MUCH OF YOUR LIFE.
COME HOME SAFE SO I MAY RECTIFY THIS.
I... WILL, FATHER.
FARE WELL.
SWOOSH!
MEKON, ARE YOU ALRIGHT.
YES.
IT WAS SHORTY AFTERWARDS THAT WE GOT THE NEWS THAT COMMANDER NARZ AND HIS KEKAKOPOLOUS HAD ENTERED THE FOBIEN SOLAR SYSTEM.
AS WE PREPARED FOR TAKE OFF, MESSAGES WERE SENT TO REINFORCE THE EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE ALLIANCE PLANNED TO SURRENDER, AND THAT FOBE WOULD OFFER NO RESISTANCE.
AND, OF COURSE, THAT A SHIP WOULD SOON ARRIVE WITH THE SON OF MACHAVIA'S LORD, WHO WOULD DELIVER OUR TERMS FOR SURRENDER, AND PREPARE THE WAY FOR A MEETING BETWEEN NARZ AND WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE ALLIANCE LEADERS.

WE COULD SEE IT...
...FROM TOO FAR AWAY.
AND IT GREW, AND GREW...
...AND GREW...
...ON OUR VIEWSCREEN.
ALMOST TOO BIG TO COMPREHEND.
Gods!.
MADISON?
ARE YOU SCARED?
I AM.
...EVEN WITH THE TRILLIANS ON BOARD,
...I'M REALLY AFRAID.
SO AM I.
BUT I THINK THAT WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE.
BEEP!
MEKON, WE HAVE AN INCOMING MESSAGE.
WHAT IS IT?
BOARDING INSTRUCTIONS.

WANDERING STAR
What?
NARZ.
GREETINGS!
I AM COMMANDER NARZ.
AND YOU ARE MIEKON DZN APPOGAND, SON OF THE GREAT MACHAVIAN LORD.
YES. I AM.

WELCOME BACK.
AND, LOOK!
YOU'VE BROUGHT ME A GIFT.
WHAT?
NO.
I'M AFRAID THAT YOU MISUNDERSTAND, COMMANDER.
CASANDRA IS MY FRIEND.
AND T'SHAR, MY SISTER.
REALLY? STRANGE HOW WAR CHANGES THINGS.
YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT THAT, CHILDREN.
PERHAPS WHILE WE EAT.
EAT?
OH, YES, I HAVE A SMALL REFAST PLANNED.
I HOPE YOU WILL INDULGE ME. IT'S A TRADITION OF MINE.
STILL, I DO FIND IT INTERESTING
THAT YOU'VE CHOSEN TO RETURN
IN THE SAME SHIP THAT YOU ONCE ESCAPED ME IN.
FEASTING WITH THE FALLEN.
SO...

...IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND
...FOLLOW ME.
MEKON?
WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
NINE

ISN'T THIS PLEASANT?
JUST THE FOUR OF US.

OH, HOW YOU GLARE AT ME, CHILD.
I BEGIN TO FEAR THAT YOU DON'T LIKE ME VERY WELL.

OH, I LIKE YOU, NARZ, BUT THAT WORRIES ME.
SO, I'M SHOWING YOU THE FACE THAT HIDES THAT THE BEST.

HEH HEH HEH.

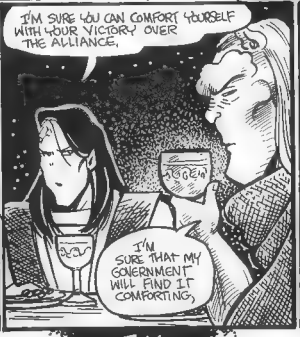
YOU KNOW, CASANDRA, I HAD SUCH HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.
HAD YOU REMAINED FREE A FEW MORE YEARS, YOU MIGHT HAVE BECOME A RESPECTABLE OPPONENT.

OH, REALLY.

OH, QUITE.
CERTAINLY I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU EVENTUALLY,
...BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERESTING WHILE YOU LASTED.

SO, SORRY TO HAVE DISAPPOINTED YOU.

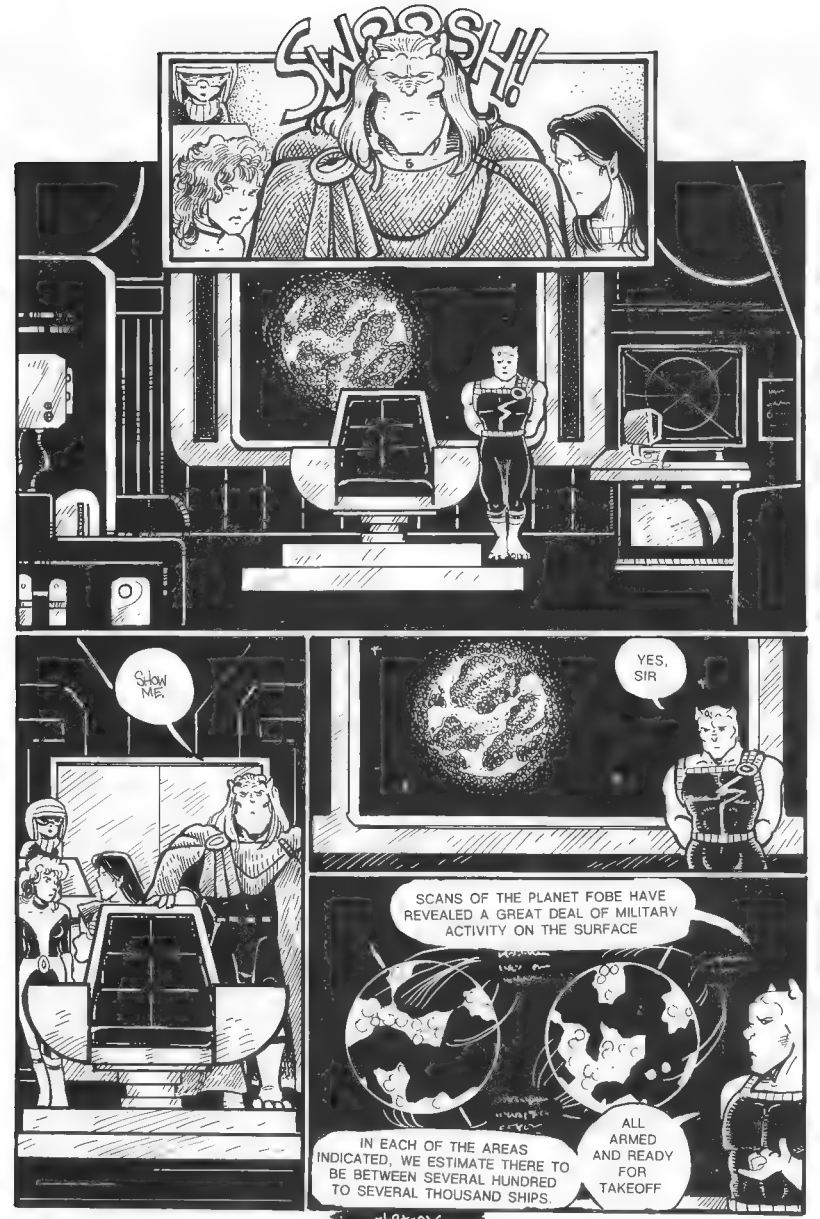
NOT TO WORRY.
I'VE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH LIFE'S LITTLE DISAPPOINTMENTS.


I'M SURE YOU CAN COMFORT YOURSELF WITH YOUR VICTORY OVER THE ALLIANCE.
I'M SURE THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT COMFORTING.

...BUT AS FOR MYSELF,
...I PREFER A DIFFERENT KIND OF VICTORY.

! ! !
What?
WELL,
...YOU SEE,...
MY PEOPLE...
...BELIEVE IN THE TWINS~.
~DAY
AND NIGHT.
AT EACH DAWN, DAY SLAYS HIS BROTHER NIGHT, AND HACKS THE BODY TO BITS,
SCATTERING IT ABOUT THE LAND AS SHADOWS.
BUT AS THE DAY AGES, NIGHT RISES FROM THE DEAD, GATHERING HIS BODY TO HIM AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.
AND BEING YOUNG AND STRONG, NIGHT SLAYS HIS BROTHER DAY, HACKING HIS BODY TO PIECES, AND SCATTERING IT ABOUT THE SKY AS STARS.
AND IN TIME, NIGHT GROWS OLD, AND DAY RISES FROM THE DEAD, AND SO IT CONTINUES.
THIS IS OUR ETERNITY.
OUR DARKLANDS.
AND TO SLAKE NIGHTLY IN THE DARKLANDS,
WE MUST LIVE WITH VALOR.
TO STRUGGLE, TO FIGHT!
THIS STRENGTHENS THE SOUL.
EASY WINS WEAKEN IT.
SO, WHAT I PREFER...
...WHAT I DESIRE,
IS A HARD-WON VICTORY,
OR A GLORIOUS DEATH AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

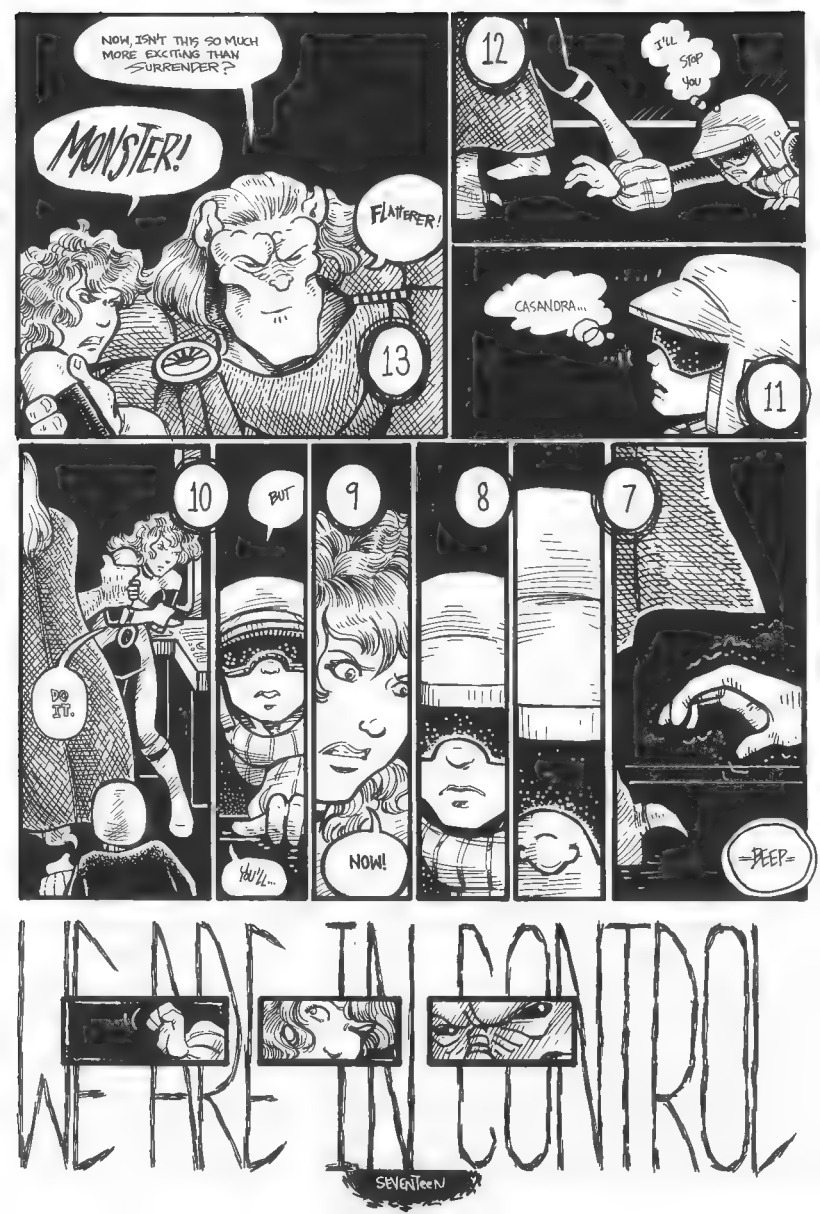
BUT THE EMPIRE SHOULD BE PLEASED. IT HAS MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER THAN THE AFTERLIFE.
IT HAS TO CONSIDER EXPENSES.
AND LONG WARS ARE EXPENSIVE. AND RUIN MANY POTENTIAL VALUABLES.
ONCE IT WAS DIFFERENT, THOUGH.
WHEN THE EMPIRE WAS YOUNGER, AND STILL FULL OF FIRE—,
BUT, ALAS, TIME CHANGES MORALITY.
HOW FORTUNATE FOR US.
SWOOSH
Really?
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
HOW INTERESTING.
Well, CHILDREN.
FINISH UP.
WE HAVE BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF


SWOOSH!
SHOW ME.
YES, SIR
SCANS OF THE PLANET FOBE HAVE REVEALED A GREAT DEAL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY ON THE SURFACE
IN EACH OF THE AREAS INDICATED, WE ESTIMATE THERE TO BE BETWEEN SEVERAL HUNDRED TO SEVERAL THOUSAND SHIPS.
ALL ARMED AND READY FOR TAKEOFF

Well, Well, Well~looks as if you weren't being completely forthright with me.
Pellar! Are those areas logged into the computer?
Yes, sir
Good.
Then prep the Howler to destroy them on my signal.
No!
You can't!
Don't be silly
Of course I can.
Commander! Don't be rash!
You're making a mistake!
It's a harmless display of respect!
No one's attacking you! No one's going to!
Quite the fast thinker, aren't you, little lord?
And I might have even believed you, if Casandra hadn't worn that uniform.
But I know what that uniform means to her.
Her friends died fighting me, wearing that uniform.
And I seriously doubt...
...that she would dishonor the memory of her friends by wearing it to surrender.

COMMANDER!
GH!
AARRGH!
THAT'S...
...THAT'S RIGHT ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE THE EMPATH, AREN'T YOU?
BAM
AH!
MADISON!
BASTARD!
WHIP
OOWW!
SO,
...WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, CHILD?

LET ME GO!
BELAR!
I'M TAKING OVER YOUR STATION.
I WANT THE PRIVILEDGE OF PERSONALLY DESTROYING THOSE TARGETS.
NO!
NARZ! DON'T DO THIS! IT'LL-
ON THE CONTRARY...
ZAPPSH!
IT'LL DO NOTHING.
IF I'M WRONG...
I'M SURE THAT THE ALLIANCE WILL STILL FIND SOME WAY TO JUSTIFY SURRENDERING.
WHAT ELSE CAN IT DO?
NOW THEN, CHILD.
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING ON BELAR'S CONSOLE.
NO!
SEE THIS LITTLE CLOCK COUNTING DOWN?
IT'S COUNTING DOWN ON THE HOWLER.
AND WHEN THAT COUNTDOWN IS DONE, FOBE WILL BEGIN TO HAVE REASON TO REGRET THE ALLIANCE'S FOLLY.
No!
SIMEON


NOW, ISN'T THIS SO MUCH MORE EXCITING THAN SURRENDER?
MONSTER!
FLATTERER!
13
12
I'LL STOP YOU
CASANDRA...
11
10
DO IT.
BUT
YOU'LL...
9
NOW!
8
7
=BEEP=
WE ARE IN CONTROL
SEVENTEEN

WHO?
SIR.
YIP!
OUR INSTRUMENTS INDICATE THAT WE ARE SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE PLANET FOBE.
SHALL I
AARGH!
A TULSAR BLOCKING SIGNAL.
NOTHING'S WORKING!
CLICK CLICK CLICK KLAK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
MADISON, ARE YOU SAFE?
yes.
COME ON, THEN.
CASANDRA, I... I ALMOST...
I KNOW.
YOU...
IS HE ALRIGHT?
NO,
...BUT HE WILL BE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
NOT A THING.
MEET THE TRILLIANS, NARZ.

SWOOSH!

MEKON CAN WALK, HELP ME TO MY CHAIR.
WE...
...WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
MADISON?

THE VROOL ARE FREE, CASANDRA! REMEMBER MEKON?
TOO MUCH INFORMATION, TOO SOON.
EMOTIONAL OVERLOAD.
AND FROM ALL OVER THE KEKAKOPOLOUS,
THEY'RE COMING HERE.

I THINK...
...I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HIM.

I LOOKED AT NARZ,
THE VROOL WERE SURROUNDING HIM.

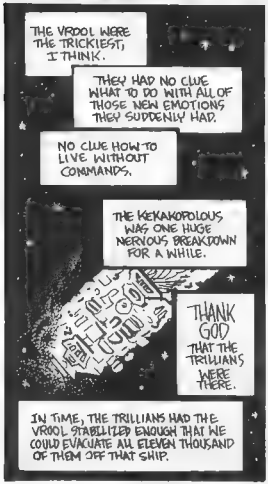
AND JUST BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW.
NARZ GLANCED MY WAY.

I'LL NEVER FORGET.
NEVER FORGET.

AND SO, THE WAR ENDED.

BUT IT WOULD BE A WHILE BEFORE IT WOULD FEEL OVER.
THE DAMAGE FROM THE WAR, WORLDWIDE, IN SOME CASES, HAD TO BE REPAIRED.

AND THE HOMELESS, FROM THOSE WHOSE WORLDS HAD BEEN RAVAGED BY THE WAR,
...TO MY PEOPLE WHO HAD LOST EVERYTHING,
...TO THE VROOL, TRAUMATIZED BY A LIFETIME OF SLAVERY,
...TUL'SARED FROM CHILDHOOD,
...NOW, SUDDENLY FREE
WE HAD OUR HANDS FULL.


THE VROOL WERE THE TRICKIEST, I THINK.
THEY HAD NO CLUE WHAT TO DO WITH ALL OF THOSE NEW EMOTIONS THEY SUDDENLY HAD.
NO CLUE HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT COMMANDS.
THE KEKAKOPOLOUS WAS ONE HUGE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN FOR A WHILE.
THANK GOD THAT THE TRILLIANS WERE THERE.
IN TIME, THE TRILLIANS HAD THE VROOL STABILIZED ENOUGH THAT WE COULD EVACUATE ALL ELEVEN THOUSAND OF THEM OFF THAT SHIP.

THEN THERE WERE THE REPAIR PROGRAMS
A GODSEND FOR MANY.
WHICH PROVIDED FOOD, SHELTER, AND SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.
FOR THOSE OF US TEMPTED TO SINK INTO DESPAIR, THOSE PROJECTS KEPT US INVOLVED IN LIFE.
AND FOR THE VROOL IT PROVIDED SOMETHING FAMILIAR, WORK VIA INSTRUCTIONS
...A SECURITY BLANKET, IF YOU WILL,
...TO HELP THEM ON THEIR LONG, TERRIFYING JOURNEY TO SELF-HOOD.

WE ALL DID OUR BEST TO GO ON.
JOEY WORKED IN THE PROGRAMS, SAME AS ME, UNTIL 2199, WHEN HE WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF HIS FORTUNE.
HE HITCHHIKED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE GALAXY UNTIL 2217, WHEN HE SETTLED DOWN TO RAISE MOOFINS FOR A LIVING.
HAMLET WAS A GIFT FROM JOEY IN 2218.
ELLI WENT BACK TO TRILLIA AFTER THE WAR, BUT RETURNED TO THE ALLIANCE A YEAR LATER.
SHE'S NOW WORKING IN SHIP DESIGN FOR A COMPANY ON MACHAVIA.
MADISON WENT BACK TO FORE AFTER THE WAR.
AND USING THE MONEY HE EARNED WHILE AT THE ACADEMY, BOUGHT SEVERAL ACRES OF LAND AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN.
HE'S BEEN THERE EVER SINCE.
AND MEKON,
AFTER MANY YEARS OF WORKING FOR HIS FATHER IN THE GOVERNMENT, FIRST AS AN AIDE, THEN AS THE HEAD OF DIFFERENT ALLIANCE PROGRAMS TO HELP THE WAR REFUGEES,
... WENT ON TO BECOME MACHAVIA'S LORD IN 2221.
AND AS MUCH AS I LOVE TO POKE FUN AT HIM,
... HE'S DOING A GREAT JOB AT IT.
AND THAT'S ALL.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO TELL.
I...
...GUESS SO, HUH?

Click
MS. CASANDRA,
...I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW,
IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEDGE.
THANK YOU, ALDAR.
YOU KNOW,
I THINK I'M GOING TO WRITE YOUR STORY IN TWELVE INSTALLMENTS.
DO YOU THINK IT'LL FIT INTO TWELVE?
I THINK SO.
I'LL SEND YOU EACH PART AS I FINISH IT.
GOOD BYE, MS. CASANDRA.
GOOD BYE, ALDAR.

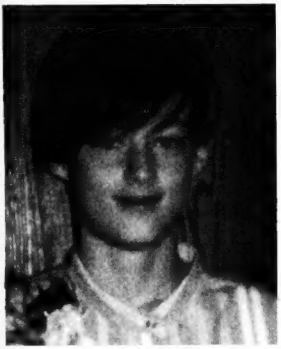
CLICK!

DarkLight
by Teri Sue Wood
WOOD
©96
COMING SOON FROM SIRIUS

Missing Children Help Center
National Missing Children Division
National Child Safety Council
410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400
Tampa, Florida 33619

SHAUN MICHAEL KOGER

Missing Juvenile



SHAUN MICHAEL KOGER

Missing:	07/01/96	**Age Now:**	15 yrs 3 mths
Missing From:	OGDEN, UT	**Age Disap.:**	15
Birth:	05/19/81	**Race:**	White
Sex:	Male	**Eyes:**	Blue
Height:	5' 0"	**Weight:**	100 lbs.
Hair:	Straight Blond		

ID Info: NCIC NO. M-947007376

Circum: SHAUN HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE HE LEFT HIS FATHER'S HOME.

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

Missing Children...HELP Center at 1-800-USA-KIDS

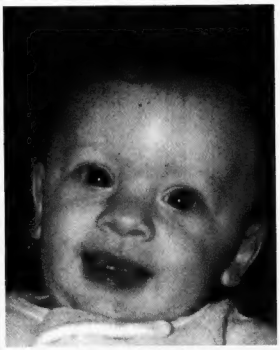
OR

OGDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
OGDEN, UT (801) 629-8211

Missing Children Help Center
National Missing Children Division
National Child Safety Council
410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400
Tampa, Florida 33619

IHAB GAMIL DIA

Parental Abduction



IHAB GAMIL DIA

Missing:	01/05/96	**Age Now:**	1 yrs 1 mths
Missing From:	TORRANCE, CA	**Age Disap.:**	0
Birth:	08/16/95	**Race:**	White
Sex:	Male	**Eyes:**	Hazel
Height:	2' 1"	**Weight:**	15 lbs.
Hair:	Straight Red		

ID Info: NCIC #M-924780084 - SMALL INDENTATION ON LEFT CHEST UNDER BREAST.

Circum: CHILD IS A WARD OF THE STATE OF CAL. AND LIVING WITH HIS FOSTER MOTHER SANDRA. MOTHER WAS AWARDED OVER NIGHT VISITATION WITH CHILD. SHE FLED WITH CHILD AND NEVER RETURNED HIM.

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:

Missing Children...HELP Center at 1-800-USA-KIDS

OR

TORRANCE POLICE DEPT.
3300 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE DET. BOUTWELL
TORRANCE, CA 90503 (213) 328-3456

Oh, dear.
Congratulations
Teri-Sue
-From everyone at SIRIUS
You made it!